

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-02 EUR-02 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 /013 R

66011

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKSON  
APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP  
AF/W:MEATON

-----073962 101604Z /11

O 101426Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NOUAKCHOTT 1869 ACTION SECSTATE JULY 10.

QUOTE UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1869

DEPT PLEASEPASS OFD POSTS AS NECESSARY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MR

SUBJ: COUP D'ETAT IN MAURITANIA: SITREP 1. 1000Z JULY 10

REF:NOUAKCHOTT 1859

1. HERE FOLLOWS WHAT EMBASSYHAS BEEN ABLE TO LEARN TO DATE ABOUT  
APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL COUP D'ETAT  
WHICH BEGAN IN EARLY MORNING HOURS JULY 10.TA. AS EARLY AS 0500Z JULY  
18 AIR MAURITANIE CREW WHICH WAS ABOARD  
ITS PLANE READY TO DEPART NOUAKCHOTT FOR SOUTHERN MAURETANIAN TOWN OF  
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KAEDI WAS APPROACHED BY MILITARY ATEP ANDPLACED UNDER ARREST IN AIR--  
PORT. CREW REPORTED THAT MILITARY MEN CUT TELEPHONE LINES FROMAIRPORT

.  
B. AT 0715Z, EMBOFFS PROCEEDING TO AIRPORT FOR PRIVATE PLANE FLIGHT  
TO NORTHERN MAURITANIA OBSERVED THAT ROADS AND KEY POINTS WERE BEING  
HEAVILY PATROLLED AND GUARDED BY ARMY. EMBOFFS REACHED AIRPORT TO  
LEARN THAT IT WAS CLOSED TO TRAFFIC. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER THEY

WERE PLACED UNDER LOOSE ARREST WITH OTHER PASSENGERS AND AIRPORT  
9\*\*8:8-).

PEOPLE ARRIVING AT AIRPORT SUBSEQUENTLY WERE ALSO ARRESTED.  
EMBOFFS REMAINED AT AIRPORT UNTIL 0915A WHEN ARMY OFFICER ARRIVED  
TO RELEASE ALL THOSE BEING HELD.

C. AT 0800Z RADIO MAURITANIA, WHICH HAD BEEN OFF AIR, BEGAN BROAD-  
CASTING MARTIAL MUSIC AND AT 0820 ISSUED COMMUNIQUE IN FRENCH AND  
ARABIC SAYING THAT:J

CORRUPT AND ANTINATIONAL REGIME ENDED AND ARMED FORCES, CHARGED AS  
LAST RESORT WITH MAINTAINING NATIONAL LEGITIMACY,  
HAVE SEIZED POWER. THIS DONE TO SAVE COUNTRY FROM DISMEMBERMENT.

II. CONSTITUTION, PARLIAMENT, PARTY AND ALL ITS ORGANISMS ARE  
DISSOLVED, AND MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL RECTIFICATION  
HAS TAKEN ALL POWERS UNTIL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS CAN BE PUT IN  
PLACE. NEW GOVT WILL BE FORMED SOON.

III. COMMITTEE DECLARES SOLEMNLY THAT IT WILL RESPECT ALL ENGAGEMENTS  
OF MAURITANIAN STATE VIS A VIS OUTSIDE WORLD, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZAT  
IONS,

AS WELL AS RELATIONS WITH BROTHERLY AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.

IV. UN, OAU, AND ARAB LEAGUE CHARTERS WILL BE RESPECTED AS WILL LIFE  
AND PROPERTY OF FOREIGNERS LIVING IN MAURITANIA.

V. CITIZENS ASKED TO REMAIN CALM AND LISTEN TO INSTRUCTIONS WHICH  
WILL BE GIVEN SUBSEQUENTLY.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS IN INTERIOR OF COUNTRY SHOULD CONTINUE  
TO FUNCTION NORMALLY. FOR NOUAKCHOTT, PROGRAM FOR RETURN TO WORK WILL  
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BE PUBLISHED.

D. EMBOFFS AT AIRPORT HEARD ONE OR TWO SHOTS FIRED, AND SOME SHOOTING  
MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN CITY. HOWEVER, CITY IS NOW APPARENTLY CALM.  
WE UNDERSTAND FRENCH RADIO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH  
IS BEING HELD SOMEWHERE WITHIN COUNTRY. CABINET MINISTERS ARE BELIEV  
ED  
UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

E. APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF ITS CLOSE PROXIMITY TO PRESIDENCY,  
EMBASSY IS UNDER ARMY GUARD AND PASSAGE IN AND OUT DENIED. MOVEMENT I  
N  
REST OF CITY, NOTABLE AT AID OFFICES, IS FREER.  
FRONTIERS AND AIRPORT REMAIN CLOSED.

2. ALL AMERICANS IN MAURITANIA BELIEVED SAFE AND WELL. KRYZA  
UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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